

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 121208Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2135

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2056

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LY, SU

SUBJECT: ARMY REPORTEDLY IRKED BY PRE-COUP TREATMENT

1. SOURCE CLOSE TO POWERFUL MINED MANSUR KHALID TOLD
AMBASSADOR JULY 10 THAT ARMY IN KHARTOUM AREA HAD BEEN
ANNOYED AT TREATMENT SOME UNITS HAD RECEIVED JUST PRIOR
ABORTIVE COUP. SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT REGIME HAD HAD ADVANCE
WORD SOMETHING BREWING AND HAD EVEN ARRESTED SOME FIFTY
SUDANESE ON JULY 1, INCLUDING LAWYER WHO HAD IN HIS POSSESSION
RADIO STATEMENT WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN BROADCAST IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING COUP JULY 2. BEING SUDANESE, THOSE ARRESTED WERE
NOT GIVEN THIRD DEGREE TREATMENT BUT SIMPLY LOCKED UP.
AUTHORITIES ASSUMED ANY COUP THREAT WOULD, AS IN PAST,
ORIGINATE WITH MILITARY UNITS. ACCORDINGLY, SOURCE CLAIMED
STEPS WERE TAKEN TO DEPRIVE MILITARY UNITS OF THEIR WEAPONS
NIGHT OF JULY 1-2. AS RESULT THESE MEASURES, MILITARY LACKED
ABILITY RESPOND RAPIDLY WHEN COUP STARTED, WHILE REBELS,
AS RESULT JULY 1 ROUND-UP OF SUDANESE SUSPECTS, LACKED
ELEMENT OF GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO CAPITALIZE ON
THEIR INITIAL SUCCESSES.

2. DUE TO FOREGOING, ARMED FORCES ARE SAID TO HAVE BECOME

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SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF NIMEIRI AFTER COUP ATTEMPT LIQUIDATED.

WHEN REGIME INITIALLY PROPOSED THAT ITS DE FACTO NUMBER TWO MAN, MINAG APUL GASIM MOHAMED IBRAHIM MEET WITH VARIOUS MILITARY UNITS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE, MILITARY IS SAID TO HAVE REACTED NEGATIVELY, INSISTING THAT SUCH VISITS BE MADE BY NIMEIRI HIMSELF. THIS WAS DONE.

3. SOURCE CLAIMED MANY REBELS WERE ANSAR RECRUITED FROM ABOUT "6,000" WHO HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN ETHIOPIA AFTER ABA ISLAND INCIDENTS IN 1970. SOME MAY STILL BE RESIDEING IN ETHIOPIA. CITING SADIQ AL-MAHDI RADIO BROADCAST FROM LIBYA (KHARTOUM 2031) PROMISING CONTINUATION NATIONAL FRONT EFFORTS UNSEAT NIMEIRI, SOURCE OPINED EXILED ANSAR MIGHT STILL BE SUFFICIENTLY NUMEROUS TO MAKE FURTHER TROUBLE. HE BELIEVED REGIME SHOULD CONTINUE TAKE MAXIMUM PRECAUTIONS, NOTING IN THIS CONNECTION THAT SUDANESE COMMUNIST PARTY REMAINS SINGLE LARGEST ANTI-REGIME GROUP UNDAMAGED BY RECENT FIGHTING.

4. COMMENT: EXTENT TO WHICH SUDANESE UNITS MAY ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN DISARMED BY REGIME ON EVE OF COUP WAS NO DOUBT EXAGGERATED BY SOURCE. FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT REGIME IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT RELIABILITY OF ARMORED TROOPS AT SHAGARA. IN ANY CASE, CONTRARY AFTERMATH OF 1975 COUP, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS HIMSELF UNDERTAKEN A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF VISITING UNITS AND KEY AREAS INVOLVED IN FIGHTING (KHARTOUM 2039) WHILE ABUL GASIM IBRAHIM REMAINS CAREFULLY IN THE BACKGROUND.

BREWER

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